

the following officials of the U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security: VADM Robert J. Papp, Jr., USCG, Chief of Staff; and Master Chief Charles W. Bowen, USCG, Master Chief Petty Officer; and Sean Connaughton, Administrator, Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

VA DISABILITIES RATING REVISION

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing on Revising the VA Schedule of Rating Disabilities. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Veterans Affairs: Bradley G. Mayes, Director, Compensation and Pension Service, Veterans Benefits Administration; and the following officials of the Veterans Health Administration: Steven H. Brown, M.D., Director, Compensation and Pension Exam Program; Patrick Joyce, M.D., Chief Occupational Health Clinic; and Richard Hipolit, Assistant General Counsel; Joseph Kelley, M.D. Deputy Assistant Secretary, Clinical and Program Policy (Health Affairs), Department of Defense; representatives of veterans organizations; and public witnesses.

BRIEFING—CYBER INITIATIVE

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Met in executive session to receive a briefing on Cyber Initiative. The Committee was briefed by Mick McConnell, Director, Office of the Director of National Intelligence; and Michael Chertoff, Secretary of Homeland Security.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNTER TO COMPOST

Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming: Held a hearing entitled "Food for Thought: Sustainability from Counter to Compost." Testimony was heard from Pat Miller, Research Microbiologist in the Sustainable Agricultural Systems Laboratory and Environmental Microbial Systems Laboratory, USDA; Dan Beard, Chief Administration Officer, House of Representatives; and public witnesses.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2008

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the U.S. Army, Department of Defense, 10:30 a.m., SD-192.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the current and future worldwide threats to the national

security of the United States; with the possibility of a closed session in S-407 following the open session, 9:30 a.m., SD-106.

Subcommittee on Personnel, to hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 for the Active component, Reserve component, civilian personnel programs, and the future years defense program, 3 p.m., SR-232A.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Space, Aeronautics, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the National Space and Aeronautics Administration (NASA), 2:30 p.m., SR-253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Stanley C. Suboleski, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Fossil Energy), and J. Gregory Copeland, of Texas, to be General Counsel, both of the Department of Energy, 9:45 a.m., SD-366.

Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests, to hold hearings to examine S. 2229, to withdraw certain Federal land in the Wyoming Range from leasing and provide an opportunity to retire certain leases in the Wyoming Range, S. 2379, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to cancel certain grazing leases on land in Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument that are voluntarily waived by the lessees, to provide for the exchange of certain Monument land in exchange for private land, to designate certain Monument land as wilderness, S. 832, to provide for the sale of approximately 25 acres of public land to the Turnabout Ranch, Escalante, Utah, at fair market value, S. 2508 and H.R. 903, bills to provide for a study of options for protecting the open space characteristics of certain lands in and adjacent to the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests in Colorado, S. 2601 and H.R. 1285, bills to require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to King and Kittitas Counties Fire District No. 51 a certain parcel of real property for use as a site for a new Snoqualmie Pass fire and rescue station, H.R. 523, to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain public land located wholly or partially within the boundaries of the Wells Hydroelectric Project of Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County, Washington, to the utility district, and H.R. 838, to provide for the conveyance of the Bureau of Land Management parcels known as the White Acre and Gambel Oak properties and related real property to Park City, Utah, 2:30 p.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the Environmental Protection Agency, 10 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: business meeting to consider S. 579, to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer, S. 1810, to amend the

Public Health Service Act to increase the provision of scientifically sound information and support services to patients receiving a positive test diagnosis for Down syndrome or other prenatal and postnatal diagnosed conditions, S. 999, to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve stroke prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation, S. 1760, to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Healthy Start Initiative, H.R. 20, to provide for research on, and services for individuals with, postpartum depression and psychosis, and S. 1042, to amend the Public Health Service Act to make the provision of technical services for medical imaging examinations and radiation therapy treatments safer, more accurate, and less costly, and any pending nominations, 10 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine U.S. reliance on private security firms in overseas operations, 10 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: to hold hearings to examine S. 2232, to direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a demonstration program to adapt the lessons of providing foreign aid to underdeveloped economies to the provision of Federal economic development assistance to certain similarly situated individuals, 9:30 a.m., SR-485.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine S. 2041, to amend the False Claims Act, focusing on strengthening the government's most effective tool against fraud for the 21st century, 10 a.m., SD-226.

Subcommittee on Crime and Drugs, to hold hearings to examine supporting the front line in the fight against crime, focusing on restoring federal funding for state and local law enforcement, 2 p.m., SD-226.

Committee on Rules and Administration: to hold hearings to examine protecting voters in the United States at the polls, focusing on limiting abusive robocalls and vote caging practices, 10 a.m., SR-301.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the Small Business Administration, 10 a.m., SR-428A.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: to hold hearings to review veterans' disability compensation, focusing on expert work on post-traumatic stress disorder and other issues, 9:30 a.m., SH-216.

Select Committee on Intelligence: closed business meeting to consider pending calendar business, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

Special Committee on Aging: to hold hearings to examine issues relative to surgeons, focusing on conflicts and consultant payments in the medical device industry, 10:30 a.m., SD-628.

House

Committee on Agriculture, to consider Budget Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2009 for submission to the Committee on the Budget, 12 p.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, on Drug Safety, 10 a.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, on National Science Board/National Science Foundation, 9:30 a.m., H-309 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Defense, on Shipbuilding, 10 a.m., H-140 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies, on Bureau of Reclamation Commission, 10 a.m., 2362-B Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, on Election Administration, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, on Bureau of Land Management, 10 a.m., B-308 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, on Department of Health and Human Services, 10 a.m., 2358-C Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, on Office of Inspector General, 1:30 p.m., H-143 Capitol.

Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Agencies, on Fiscal Year 2009 Budget, U.S. Agency for International Development, 10 a.m., 2358-A Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, hearing on Fiscal Year 2009 National Defense Authorization Budget Request from the Department of the Air Force, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Seapower and Expeditionary Forces, hearing on Fiscal Year 2009 National Defense Authorization Budget Request overview for the United States Marine Corps, 3 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing on U.S. Strategic Posture/Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Request for Strategic Programs, 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, hearing on Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2009 Budget, 10 a.m., and a hearing on Department of Health and Human Services Fiscal Year 2009 Budget, 2 p.m., Cannon.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection, entitled "Drugs in Sports: Compromising the Health of Athletes and Undermining the Integrity of Competition," 9:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, hearing on Wireless Consumer Protection and Community Broadband Empowerment, 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, to continue hearings on Monetary Policy and the State of the Economy, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, to mark the following: GlobalHIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008; H.R. 1084, Reconstruction and Stabilization Civilian Management Act of 2007; H. Res. 185, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the creation of refugee populations in the Middle East, North Africa, and the Persian Gulf region as a result of human rights violations; H. Res. 854, Expressing the gratitude to all member states of the International Commission of the International Tracing Service (ITS) on ratifying the May 2006 Agreement to amend the

1955 Bonn Accords granting open access to vast Holocaust and other World War II related archives located in Bad Arolsen, Germany; H. Res. 865, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the March 2007 report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development makes an important contribution to the understanding of the high levels of crime and violence in the Caribbean, and that the United States should work with Caribbean countries to address crime and violence in the region; H. Con. Res. 154, Expressing the sense of Congress that the fatal radiation poisoning of Russian dissident and writer Alexandria Litvinenko raises significant concerns about the potential involvement of elements of the Russian Government in Mr. Litvinenko's death and about the security and proliferation of radioactive materials; H. Con. Res. 255, Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the United States commitment to preservation of religious and cultural sites and condemning instances where sites are desecrated; H. Con. Res. 278, Supporting Taiwan's fourth direct and democratic presidential elections in March 2008; and H. Con. Res. 290, Commemorating the 175th anniversary of the special relationship between the United States and the Kingdom of Thailand, 9:30 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, hearing on Multidrug Resistant Tuberculosis: Assessing the U.S. Response to an Emerging Global Threat, 2:30 p.m., 2255 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment, hearing and briefing on Climate Change and Vulnerable Societies: A Post-Bali Overview, 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Border, Maritime and Global Counterterrorism and the Subcommittee on Management, Investigations and Oversight, joint hearing entitled "Project 28: Lessons Learned and the Future of SBInet," 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property, oversight hearing on the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, 1:30 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, oversight hearing on the Department of Interior's recently released guidance on

taking land into trust for Indian Tribes and its ramifications, 11 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, oversight hearing on the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Requests for the National Park Service, Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Government Management, Organization and Procurement, hearing on Contracting Reform: Expert Recommendations and pending measures, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs, hearing on One Year After Walter Reed: An Independent Assessment of the Care, Support, and Disability Evaluation for Wounded Soldiers, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, to consider H. Res. 895, Establishing within the House of Representatives an Office of Congressional Ethics, and for other purposes, 12:30 p.m., H-313 Capitol.

Committee on Science and Technology, to mark up the following bills: H.R. 3916, To provide for the next generation of border and maritime security technologies; H.R. 4847, U.S. Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008; and H.R. 5161, Green Transportation Infrastructure Research and Technology Transfer Act, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, to consider Committee Budget Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2009 for submission to the Committee on the Budget, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on VA Construction Authorization, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support, hearing on Improving the Child Welfare System, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Subcommittee on Intelligence Community Management, hearing on Security Clearances, 9:30 a.m., 340 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Terrorism, Human Intelligence, Analysis and Counterintelligence, executive, briefing on Hot Spots, 8:45 a.m., H-405 Capitol.